



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

AUG 24 1998

REFERENCES

75-4-293

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
DEPT. OF COM. SEC. 1.101

Mr. George A. Beam, Jr.
321 S. White Horse Road
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Dear Mr. Beam:

Thank you for your letter to Chairman William E. Kennard regarding a line item that has been added by your carrier to your telephone bill to recover its contributions to the universal service support mechanisms. Chairman Kennard has asked me to respond to your inquiry.

Long distance companies have been indirectly bearing the costs of universal service for many years, but have only recently been assessing these costs through specific line items on customers' bills. I therefore urge you to look at the bottom line on your phone bills to determine the impact on your rates. Average long distance rates have continued to decrease. Thus, the appearance of a separate line item attributed to universal service does not necessarily reflect an increase in your overall cost of phone service.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted an Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in Section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including low income consumers and those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas. Universal service support for carriers serving high cost areas and for low income consumers has been provided for decades. In the 1996 Act, Congress expanded universal service goals to ensure the nation's classrooms and libraries receive access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are enjoyed in urban communities.

In the 1996 Act, Congress required all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services to contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all such telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, requires such carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent

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they recover **their** contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

Your letter has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest and views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lisa S. Gelb", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lisa S. Gelb
Chief
Accounting Policy Division
Common Carrier Bureau

THE CHAIRMAN, F.C.C., MR William E. KENNARD,
1919 "M" ST NW, WASH., DC 20554

PHOENIXVILLE, PA 19460
JULY 17, 1998

DEAR MR CHAIRMAN,

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOUR ACTIONS ARE SO IN
TOUCH WITH THE AVERAGE CITIZEN AND TAXPAYER OF THIS U.S.A?
WHY SHOULD I BE FORCED BY YOUR SCHEME AT THE BEHEST
OF MR GORE TO HAVE TO PAY 5% INTERSTATE AND 1.8% INTRA-
STATE TAXES ON MY ATT TELEPHONE CALLS? YOU STATE,
"THE ACTIONS OF THE FCC WILL ENSURE TELECOMM. SVCS. ARE AVAILABLE TO

IN LOW INCOME CITIZENS (CUSTOMERS):- WILL YOU SUPPLY A NEW
PROGRAM TO ADD ADDITIONAL FCC TAXES SO THEY CAN ALSO GET
HOME PC'S, A.O.L. SVCS, AUTOS WITH CELLULAR PHONES? WHAT
DO YOU CONSIDER A LOW INCOME FAMILY? I GREW UP IN THE
DEPRESSION AND ATE STALE BUNS AND COFFEE FOR BREAKFAST,
NO LUNCH, AND STEW FOR SUPPER, EVEN THOUGH MY 4
BROTHERS AND ME JUNKED, SOLD PAPERS, ^{SOLD OFF OF} ~~HUSBANDS~~ ON
VETERAN'S HORSES & WAGONS, SOLD ICE, SHINED SHOES, etc, etc, etc
TO BRING HOME MONEY TO MY MOTHER TOGETHER BY. WE DID NOT
HAVE A PHONE. WE DID NOT HAVE A RADIO, AND WE BEARLY

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got by. I walked 18 blocks to and from HIGH SCHOOL IN PHIL., PA. WE HAD NO SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION.

II- IF I CALL LONG DISTANCE FROM 7AM TO 7PM MONDAY THRU FRIDAY I PAY 25¢/MIN + TAX. ~~ARE~~ MY PHONE CHARGES CHEAP? WITH YOU + MR GORE IT WILL BE 26.3¢/MIN PLUS THE OTHER TAXES ALREADY ON MY PHONE SVC. MY INTRASTATE TOLL CALLS WILL BE 1.8% HIGHER THANKS TO YOU.

III- I THOUGHT PARENTS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING COMPUTER INTERNET SVC. IF THEY WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO HAVE THIS SVC. WHY DON'T THEY BUY IT? I DON'T HAVE A P.C., I DON'T HAVE A WEB SITE ON THE INTERNET, I DON'T SEE HOW YOU CAN TAX ME FOR SVC. LIKE THIS FOR OTHERS WHEN I CAN'T AFFORD THEM. THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN OUR DISTRICT WHO ARE TENURED MAKE APPROX. \$65,000./YR (9 MOS.), PLUS BENEFITS OF APPROX \$20,000.+. THE ADMINISTRATORS ARE ALSO WELL PAID. WHY NOT CUT TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATOR BY THE AMOUNTS NECESSARY TO GET THESE SVC. IN THE SCHOOLS THAT REQUEST THEM? INCLUDE THE 16,000 LIBRARY EMPLOYEES. PERHAPS YOU + MR GORE

III (CONT.) COULD DONATE YOUR ~~SALARIES~~. I NOTICE AL GORE AND TIPPER ARE VERY GENEROUS IN THEIR CHARITY DONATIONS. WHAT WAS THEIR 1997 TAX RETURN FIGURE \$800. ? Big Ooze! Maybe YOU COULD TAX INTERNET WEB SITE USERS AND ADVERTISERS AS WELL AS SHARE HOLDERS IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRIES.

IV.- WHY DON'T YOU GET MR ABRAMSON WHO SOLD THE HMO VS HEALTHCARE FOR 890 MILLION DOLLARS TO GIVE IT ALONG WITH SHAREHOLDERS OF HMO'S, PPI'S, etc, etc. SO THEY CAN PAY FOR SOCIALIZED MEDICINE CARE FOR RURAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.

I GOT MY EDUCATION BECAUSE OF MY SUE IN THE U.S. NAVY. I ENLISTED AT AGE 17 AFTER GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL IN 1945. DURING WWII THEY WERE DRAFTING US AT 18 YRS OLD. THIS SUTLE SCHEME OF THE F.C.C. IS TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION. AS A U.S. CITIZEN I WILL ASK OUR LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OR OUR GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THIS INJUSTICE. PERHAPS YOU & MR GORE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MONEY BUT I CERTAINLY DO. I HAVE TO BUDGET MY PENSION etc, so I GET BY AND I CERTAINLY DON'T NEED YOU & GORE ADDING MORE EXPENSES TO MY PHONE BILLS. I HAVE READ IN THE WASHING POST WHERE IRA FISHMAN WAS APPOINTED TO HEAD THE SCHOOLS + LIBRARIES INTERNET PROGRAM AT \$200,000/YR. YOU GUYS REALLY HAVE A LOT

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OF GUTS. MR KENNARD PLEASE SEE ENCL. PHIL. INQ. 7/15/98. THE INTERNET SOUNDS LIKE A REAL WINNER WHEN THE F.C.C. ALLOWS JUNK LIKE THIS TO BE AVAILABLE ON IT.

VERY EDUCATIONAL, RIGHT? WHAT SCHOOLS DID YOU + MR GORE ATTEND?

THESE ARE THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS I HAD TO ATTEND:

G.S. BARNSON ELEMENTARY SCH., 27TH WARTON ST., PHIL., PA

AUDENRIED JR HIGH SCH., 33RD + TASKER ST., PHIL., PA

SOUTH PHIL. HIGH SCH. FOR BOYS, BROAD + JENYER, PHIL. PA

ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS. MY RATHER WASN'T A SENATOR

LIKE GORE'S. DID YOU + MR GORE ATTEND PUBLIC

SCHOOLS? DO EITHER OF YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT

MAKING ENDS MEET? I'LL WAFFER YOU BOTH

DONT!

PLEASE RE-EVALUATE THIS F.C.C. + GORE

PROGRAM, IT STINKS!

GEORGE A BARN JR

321 S. WHITEHORSE ROAD

PHOENIXVILLE, PA 19460

CC: THE HONORABLE

CONGRESSMAN

CURT WELDON, TOM BLILEY,

JOHN BINGELL,

HAL Int. 7/15/98

Couple say world can watch their first time.

For the Internet, this will be virgin territory

By Dianna Marder
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

ough already.
st we had Jennicam, in which a
sedly ordinary college student
nicked her daily life on the In-
t.
en we watched Kittycam, a cute
traordinarily boring cat.
even got up abnormally early
morning in June to watch a live
on the Internet.
w two "typical All-American"
ear-old virgins — described as
or students who are active in
ch and well-liked in the com-
y — say they will have their

first sexual encounter live on the Internet.

"World and Internet History Will Be Made!" screams the banner on www.ourfirsttime.com.

Spare us.

They've barely set the date — Aug. 4, 9 p.m. — and already their Web site is hopping. Comments range from "That's pretty dumb" to "Your parents must be thrilled."

Plenty of questions are posted, too: How do we know you people are really virgins? Who's financing this?

The site master, identified as Oscar Wells (any relation to Orson

Welles of radio's "War of the Worlds" fame?), says in his online message that this is not a hoax. It's free, he writes, no ads will be sold, and parents who don't want their children to watch should do their own monitoring.

TV's Conan O'Brien has already quipped that the day after the live virginity toss we'll see the boy get murdered live on the Net by the girl's father.

The loving couple are identified by first names only — Diane and Mike. Color snapshots show her lounging poolside in a string bikini, her face blacked out.

"Due to possible harassment all faces, names and location be disguised." Until the big "when everything will be unobstructed," reads the disclosure on the Web site. "We hope you understand."

No. We really don't.

Like many virgins, Diane and Mike have a lawyer. His name, Mark Vega of Los Angeles, told Reuters news service that he was to "keep this as intimate as possible."

With the whole world watching, of course.

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